LJ-86-05

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER
P.O. BOX 271
LA JOLLA, CA 92038

LIBRARY
APR 7 1986
National Marine Fisheries Service
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

FEBRUARY 1986

REPORT OF JOINT NMFS/INDUSTRY REVIEW OF PLANS AND OPERATIONS FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY, DECEMBER 11 and 12, 1985

by

Izadore Barrett and E. Charles Fullerton

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT LJ-86-05

This Administrative Report is issued as an informal document to ensure prompt dissemination of preliminary results, interim reports and special studies. We recommend that it not be abstracted or cited.

REPORT OF JOINT NMFS/INDUSTRY REVIEW OF PLANS AND OPERATIONS FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY DECEMBER 11 AND 12, 1985

Dr. Izadore Barrett, Director
Southwest Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
La Jolla, California

and

Mr. E. Charles Fullerton, Director
Southwest Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
Terminal Island, California

February 1986

Administrative Report LJ-86-05

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025

https://archive.org/details/administrative-report-lj_1986-02_lj-86-05

REPORT OF JOINT NMFS/INDUSTRY REVIEW OF PLANS AND OPERATIONS FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY
DECEMBER 11 and 12, 1985
NMFS SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

A meeting of National Marine Fisheries Service personnel and albacore fishery representatives was held at the Southwest Fisheries Center (SWFC) in La Jolla, California, December 11-12, 1985, to review plans and operations for research, development and management of the U.S. Pacific albacore fishery. The meeting was sponsored by Dr. Izadore Barrett, Director, Southwest Fisheries Center, and E. Charles Fullerton, Director of the Southwest Region.

The purposes of the meeting were: 1) to achieve a common understanding by industry and NMFS representatives of the current joint NMFS/Industry strategic and operational plans for albacore fishery research and development; 2) to report on the progress and status of government and industry programs and projects; and 3) to solicit suggestions for improving and updating plans and operations from a panel of government and industry representatives. In addition, it was desired to seek a consensus on the assignment of responsibilities for further planning and operational activities.

The industry panel participants included commercial and recreational fishermen, cannery representatives, fish boat operators, representatives of industry research associations, an exporter of albacore for foreign canning, and a broker for fresh/fresh-frozen albacore. NMFS panel participants were Barrett and Gary Smith, Deputy Director, Southwest Region. The names and affiliations of the panel members are given in Attachment 1 together with a list of NMFS staff members who assisted in managing the meeting, making presentations or who attended as observers.

The agenda for the meeting is given in Attachment 2.

The SWFC's Program Planning Officer, David Mackett, described the NMFS/industry strategic planning process, underway since 1983, for the Pacific albacore fishery. After preparatory work by a task force of NMFS managers and scientists in early 1983, a citizen's panel, consisting of knowledgeable people with a stake in the future of the albacore fishery, met at the SWFC in June 1983 to set goals and objectives for the fishery. The citizen's panel also generated a list of desirable future trends and events which, if realized, would demonstrate that the fishery was indeed on course toward the right goal. The information provided by the citizen panel was compiled and synthesized by the task force, expressed in the form of "options" and presented to the NMFS managers (and, through publication, to industry leaders). The NMFS managers, having studied the options and evaluated the alternatives, chose a set of options as those representing the NMFS strategy for meeting the stated goal of achieving a 35K ton U.S. harvest of Pacific albacore. The strategy was presented in the form of an "options field/options profile" in SWFC Administrative Report LJ-84-09, which documented the current NMFS strategic plan.

Because of the many changes which have taken place in the fishery since the original planning effort, Mackett explained that it was now necessary to review the current state of affairs and to make the needed mid-course corrections to improve the strategic plan. He noted that the information generated by participants in this workshop would be used by NMFS to plan, budget, and carry out its albacore research and management.

The operational plan for the North Pacific albacore program was presented to the constituents by members of the Albacore Task Force. For each element of the operational plan now underway, speakers presented information on the preliminary results. Elements discussed included fisheries and environmental data and data processing, current informal international data exchanges, results of recent biological studies, the current status of the albacore population(s) and forecast modeling, recently completed S-K grants on product quality, and a report on the economic status of the fishery. Highlights of the presentation included an analysis of the NMFS/industry cooperative tagging program and a discussion of the results of S-K grant studies on at-sea preservation methods for albacore destined for the fresh/frozen market. An item of significance is that the preliminary results of population analyses suggest that the current international harvesting levels are considerably smaller than MSY estimates.

The Nominal Group Technique (NGT) was used to solicit information and ideas from panel members for updating and improving the NMFS/Industry Strategic Plan for the Pacific albacore fishery. Participants were asked to respond to the trigger question:

"In the context of improving the current joint industry/NMFS strategic and operational plans for the Pacific albacore fishery, what objectives, projects, or activities would you add or delete?"

Twenty- nine topics were identified by the panel members. After the round-robin recording, each of the 29 ideas was clarified by the originator and discussed by the panelists. A consensus was reached on division of responsibilities between industry and government for investigating either the feasibility or implementation of ideas proposed for each of the topics. The panel members were requested to select, and rank by priority, the five ideas that they considered to be the "most important" of the 29. A list of the topics, indication of primary responsibility, and the results of the ranking are given in Attachments 3 and 4.

The ideas and their relative rankings will be used by the NMFS and industry members to guide the development of further plans and operations.

Attachment 1

PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Ken Alameda, Ocean Ventures
Mr. Robert Ayers, Northwest Region, NMFS
Dr. Izadore Barrett, Director, Southwest Fisheries Center
Mr. Art Haworth, President, American Fishermen's Research Foundation
Mr. Jeff Jones, President, San Diego Sportfishing Association
Mr. Frank Martins, Western Fishboat Owners Association
Mr. Mike McGowan, Bumble Bee Seafoods
Mr. Bill Perkins, General Manager, Western Fishboat Owners Association
Mr. David Rehmann, Royal Pacific Seafoods
Mr. J. Gary Smith, Deputy Director, Southwest Region, NMFS
Mr. Tony Trutanich, Pan Pacific Fisheries

NMFS ATTENDEES

Dr. Norm Bartoo
Mr. John Carr
Ms. Patricia J. Donley
Dr. Sam Herrick
Mr. Herb Kirch
Dr. Pierre Kleiber
Dr. Reuben Lasker
Dr. R. Michael Laurs
Mr. David Mackett
Mr. James M. Meehan
Dr. Richard Parrish
Dr. Gary Sakagawa
Mr. Richard Shomura

Attachment 2

MEETING AGENDA

Joint NMFS/Industry Review of Plans and Operations for Research, Development and Management of the Pacific Albacore Fishery

Date: December 11-12, 1985

Time: From 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. December 11
8:30 a.m. - Noon December 12*

Place: Southwest Fisheries Center
Conference Room
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92038

Sponsored by: National Marine Fisheries Service

Dr. Izadore Barrett, Director
Southwest Fisheries Center

Mr. E. Charles Fullerton, Director
Southwest Regional Office

Purpose of the Meeting:

1. Achieve a common understanding by industry and NMFS representatives of the current

   - Joint Industry/NMFS Strategic Plan for the albacore fishery,

   - Operational plans for albacore fishery research and development, and

   - Progress and status of industry and government albacore fishery programs and projects.

2. Obtain suggestions for improving and updating plans and operations from a panel of government and industry representatives.

3. Seek a consensus on the assignment of responsibilities for further planning and operational activities.

Order of Agenda Items

Wednesday, December 11, 1985

0900 1. Welcome and introductions - J. Gary Smith
Izadore Barrett

0915 2. Purpose of the meeting/agenda - Michael Laurs

0930 3. Status of the joint NMFS/industry strategic planning for the albacore fishery: overall goals and objectives - Dave Mackett

4. Status of operational planning: projects and programs for FY 1985-86 - Dick Parrish

1000 Break

1015 5. Reports on progress and status of NMFS/industry programs - Various NMFS staff and industry representatives

1200 Catered Lunch

1300 6. Continue progress and status reports

1445 Break

1500 7. Statements from Panelists - Round-robin

1630 Adjourn

Thursday, December 12, 1985

0830 1. Ideas for updating and improving the NMFS/Industry Strategic Plan for the Pacific albacore fishery - Government/Industry Panel

1045 Break

1100 2. Discussion and assignments of responsibilities for further joint planning and operations

1130 3. Wrap-up

1200 Adjourn

*NOTE: The NMFS/industry planning meeting for albacore fishery advisory system development, deployment and evaluation will be held from 1330 to 1630 in the conference room.

Attachment 3

LIST OF IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE NMFS/INDUSTRY STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR THE PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY WITH INDICATION OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY* AND PRIORITY SCORES**

1. Establish and fund government/industry task force to deal with the issue of quality in fresh/frozen albacore. (I) (34)

2. Develop and publish a recommended guide for an on-board preservation method using spray-brine system. (N) (18)

3. Survey commercial and recreational industry to assemble data and then develop alternative models for insurance pools. (N and other agencies) (17)

4. Establish international agreements for exchange of science and technology information. (N) (2)

5. Investigate how acquisition of major cost items for commercial vessels could be deferred for a reasonable period. (N) (2)

6. Create an entity within NMFS to accumulate, analyze and disseminate satellite data and imagery. (N) (12)

7. Investigate effect of the Jones Act on the industry; try to change it. (I) (7)

8. Establish training seminar utilizing engineering expertise to improve product quality. (N/S.G.) (2)

9. (Deleted)

10. Establish study group to study feasibility for fishermen's training/education and licensing as a means for improving quality control. (I) (6)

11. Continue fish tagging and other cooperative scientific work with American Fishermen's Research Foundation members. (N) (22)

12. Integrate S-K albacore proposals with priority recommendations to NMFS. (I) (0)

13. Develop model for exchange of canned fish for sport-caught albacore. (I) (8)

14. Establish an industry/government marketing plan. (I) (8)

15. Produce a monthly or bimonthly newsletter of albacore research and development. (N) (1)

16. NMFS' utilization labs should be asked to emphasize development of new albacore products. (I/N) (4)

17. Establish task force to develop optimum vessel design for the albacore fishery. (N) (0)

18. Delete efforts to establish central Pacific fishery base from the Plan. (N) (1)

19. Investigate development of by-products from albacore. (I/N) (0)

20. Delete government inspection of foreign and domestic tuna from the plan. (N) (1)

21. Study possibility of albacore fleet participating in other fisheries during the off-season. (N) (0)

22. Expand international cooperative studies in South Pacific. (N) (7)

23. Do not pursue current Fishery Management option which calls for establishing a new international framework for management of the international and north Pacific albacore fisheries. (N) (1)

24. Collect data needed to support an international management regime should it become necessary. (N) (6)

25. Conduct research to evaluate alternative bait for albacore. (N) (0)

26. Develop quality and grading standards for fresh and fresh-frozen albacore. (I/N) (7)

27. Organize a workshop to explore methods for increasing fishing productivity. (N) (4)

28. Investigate ways to avoid "green tuna". (N/S.G.) (1)

29. Investigate the use of "limited entry" in fisheries related to the albacore fishery. (I) (0)

* Consensus on Primary Responsibility for taking the next (formative) step(s) required to investigate feasibility or implement the idea.

(N) = NMFS (I) = Industry (S.G.) = Sea Grant

** See Attachment 4 for a complete summary of priority ranking of ideas.

Attachment 4

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY RANKING FROM "VOTING" DURING NGT SESSION

PRIORITY:	1	2	3	4	5	
(points)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	
ITEM NO.	NUMBER OF VOTES					TOTAL PTS.
1	4	2	1	1	1	34
2	2	2	0	0	0	18
3	0	3	1	2	0	17
4	0	0	0	1	0	2
5	0	0	0	0	2	2
6	1	1	0	1	1	12
7	1	0	0	1	0	7
8	0	0	0	1	0	2
9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	2	0	0	6
11	2	1	2	1	0	22
12	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	1	0	1	0	0	8
14	0	1	1	0	1	8
15	0	0	0	0	1	1
16	0	1	0	0	0	4
17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	1	1
19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	1	1
21	0	0	0	1	0	0
22	1	0	0	1	0	7
23	0	0	0	0	1	1
24	0	0	2	0	0	6
25	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	1	1	0	0	7
27	0	0	1	0	1	4
28	0	0	0	0	1	1
29	0	0	0	0	0	0

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY RANKING (CONT.)

TOTAL POINTS	ITEM NUMBER(S)
34	1
22	11
18	2
17	3
12	6
8	13,14
7	7,22,26
6	10,24
4	16,27
2	4,5,8,21
1	15,18,20,23,28
0	9,12,19,25,29